



# CULTURE in CONTEXT

## ADVOCATING FOR FAMILY PRIORITIES

Cultural background may play a role in a family's acceptance of different aspects of early intervention services. Some families have religious and/or other cultural beliefs about the cause of disabilities or illnesses and how they should be treated. Some families may not trust medical or other professionals and others may think they should not question anything a professional tells them. Here is some information to keep in mind as you support families in advocating for their priorities with professionals.

### What providers should find out

The family's previous history with medical/other professionals and services and their experiences (good and bad).



What families believe and understand about medicine, therapy, education, professionals, etc.



Family or community influences that contribute to certain cultural systems or practices in raising children.



### What families should share

Their child's medical, developmental, and educational history.



Their priorities, concerns, history, and what is important to their family.



When they need an interpreter or don't fully understand something that is discussed or recommended.



Family, Infant & Preschool Program  
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